

FOR RELEASE
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STUDY OF INDIANA COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES
SHOWS 45% GRADUATION RATE

A report released by the Indiana Commission for Higher Education tracking the degree completion rates of college freshmen shows that more than half of these students never achieve their goal of earning a degree. The study tracked students who identified themselves as seeking a degree upon entering an Indiana public college or university in the fall of 1990. (Completion rates of non-degree seekers or courses-only students were not included in this study.)

The study found that after six years: only 45% of the baccalaureate seeking students completed their degrees; 42% never completed a degree; and 13% were still enrolled. Of the associate degree-seeking students: only 23% completed a degree; 67% never completed; and 10% were still enrolled.

"Although Indiana is approximately at the national average for degree completion, these rates are of concern," said Stan Jones, Commissioner for Higher Education. "Particularly disturbing are the completion rates of African American students and those students over the age of 25."

The report shows that among the nontraditional-age students (over 25 years when first enrolled), only 8% of the baccalaureate-seekers and 17% of the associate-seekers attained their degrees within six years. Among African American students, 24% of the baccalaureate-seekers and 11% of the associate-seekers completed their degrees.

"High dropout rates deserve our attention," said Steve Ferguson, Commission's Chair. "Over the past few years Indiana has started to focus on improving completion rates. We're seeing efforts on both the secondary and postsecondary level to help keep students in college."

At the secondary level, Indiana Core 40 curriculum is being implemented to better prepare students academically for the challenges of postsecondary education. Programs allowing students to earn college credits while still in high school are also helping students realize they can succeed at the college/university level.

Recognizing that the critical period for retaining students is between the first and second year, Indiana colleges and universities have implemented retention strategies including

freshmen orientation, student advising services, early academic warning, tutoring for classes with historically high failure rates, career guidance opportunities, parent communication efforts, and mentoring programs.

The Lilly Endowment has also focused attention on this issue by awarding more than \$74 million to Indiana four-year private and public universities to develop student retention initiatives. The grants are part of the Endowment's continuing effort to address Indiana's low ranking (47th) in the percentage of college-educated persons in the workforce.

Commissioner Jones added, "If high school dropout rates were anywhere near as high as what colleges and universities are reporting, there would be a public outcry. We have to improve the odds. It's not good enough to say that a college freshman has about a 50-50 chance of graduating."

The study noted positive results for Purdue University-West Lafayette and Indiana University-Bloomington. Students pursuing a bachelors degree at Purdue graduated at a rate of 65% and at IU-Bloomington at a rate of 69%.

The study also identified key characteristics of the student most likely to persist through to completion of a degree. These characteristics include: full-time enrollment; immediate enrollment after high school; and living on campus during the first year.

Charts illustrating the degree completion information are attached. For a full copy of the report, please contact the Indiana Commission for Higher Education at (317) 464-4400.

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Figure 1:
Degree Completion Within 6-Years
at Indiana Public Colleges and Universities

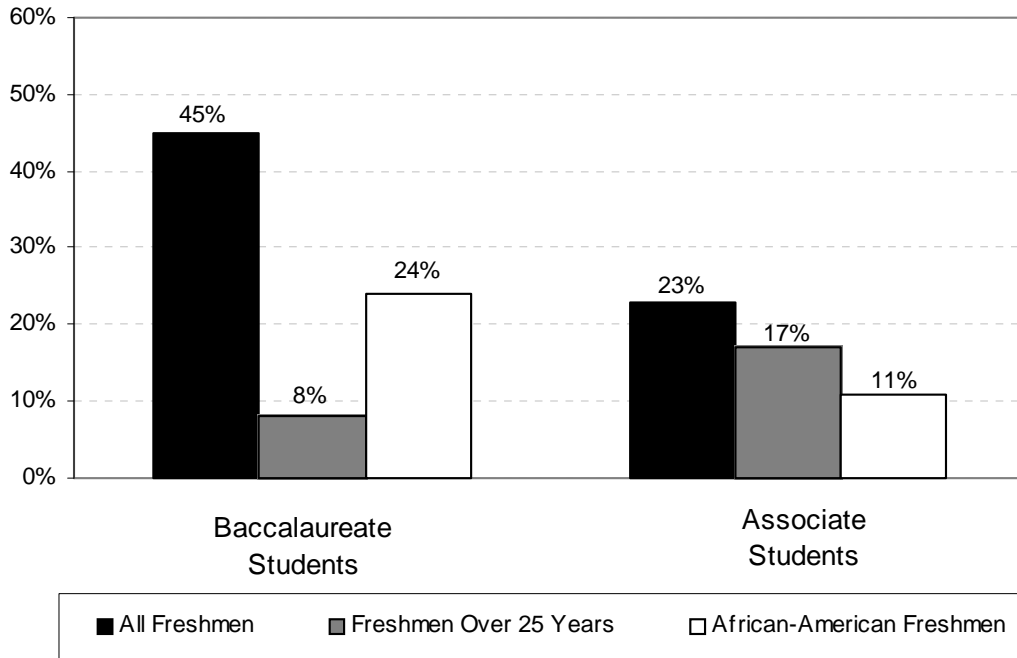


Figure 2:
Degree Completion Within 6-Years
at Indiana Public Colleges and Universities:
All Baccalaureate Freshman Degree-Seeking Students

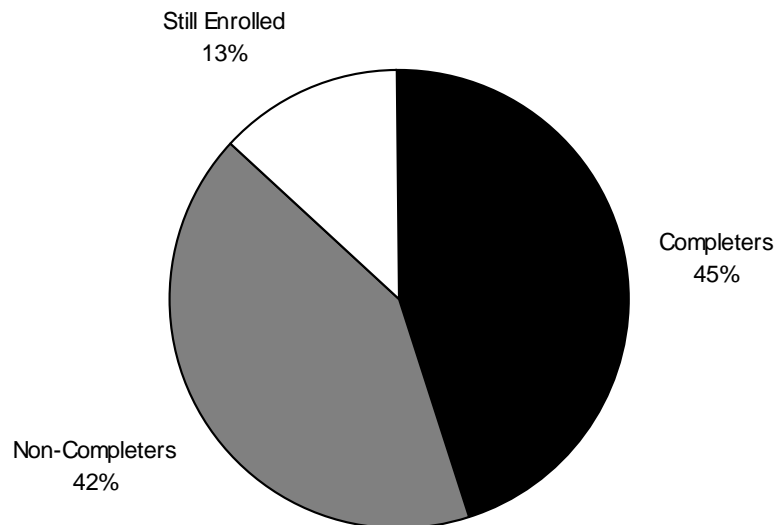


TABLE A
BACCALAUREATE DEGREE-SEEKING STUDENTS:
SUMMARY SIX-YEAR DEGREE COMPLETION RATES OF 1990 FRESHMEN AT INDIANA PUBLIC
COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

	Entering Freshmen (a)	Non-Transferring Students		All Entering Freshmen		
		Remaining Freshmen (b)	Non-Transfer Graduates (c)	Graduates at Home Campus (d)	Graduates at Other Campuses (e)	Total Graduates (f)
INDIANA UNIVERSITY						
IU Bloomington	5,381	4,519	74%	62%	7%	69%
IU East	176	146	14%	11%	5%	15%
IU Kokomo	436	319	8%	8%	4%	11%
IU Northwest	619	607	16%	13%	5%	18%
IU South Bend	739	658	14%	12%	5%	16%
IU Southeast	884	751	17%	14%	3%	17%
IUPUI	2,450	2,032	13%	11%	5%	16%
IU Sub-total	10,685	9,032	44%	36%	6%	42%
PURDUE UNIVERSITY						
PU West Lafayette	5,323	4,620	70%	62%	3%	65%
PU Calumet	895	691	19%	15%	4%	19%
PU North Central	318	214	5%	3%	9%	12%
IP Fort Wayne	1,373	1,074	14%	12%	6%	18%
PU Sub-total	7,909	6,599	53%	45%	4%	49%
BALL STATE UNIVERSITY	3,575	2,985	65%	54%	3%	58%
INDIANA STATE UNIVERSITY	2,084	1,630	37%	29%	3%	32%
UNIV OF SOUTHERN INDIANA	1,140	863	27%	21%	3%	24%
PUBLIC CAMPUS TOTAL	25,393	21,109	48%	40%	4%	45%
NATIONAL COMPARISON: Higher Education Research Institute (UCLA) using data from the Cooperative Institutional Research Program (CIRP)*				39%		

* The Higher Education Research Institute serves as an interdisciplinary center for research, evaluation, information, policy studies, and research training in postsecondary education. Data, including those reported on degree completion and persistence, are collected from approximately 1,400 institutions throughout the United States. The reported degree completion rate of 39% is based on public university and college students who complete their degrees at the campus or institution at which they initially enrolled as freshmen. The comparative Indiana degree completion rate from this study is 40%.

[Note: All figures contained in this report are for degree-seeking students only. Figures on non-degree-seeking students are not included.]

TABLE B
ASSOCIATE DEGREE-SEEKING STUDENTS:
SUMMARY SIX-YEAR DEGREE COMPLETION RATES OF 1990 FRESHMEN AT INDIANA PUBLIC
COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

	Entering Freshmen (g)	Non-Transferring Students		All Entering Freshmen		
		Remaining Freshmen (h)	Non-Transfer Graduates (i)	Graduates at Home Campus (j)	Graduates at Other Campuses (k)	Total Graduates (l)
INDIANA UNIVERSITY						
IU Bloomington	41	23	13%	7%	17%	24%
IU East	270	206	13%	10%	4%	14%
IU Kokomo	143	108	21%	18%	3%	20%
IU Northwest	34	29	34%	29%	3%	32%
IU South Bend	na	-	-	-	-	-
IU Southeast	na	-	-	-	-	-
IUPUI	123	102	23%	19%	2%	20%
IU Sub-total	640	493	18%	14%	4%	18%
PURDUE UNIVERSITY						
PU West Lafayette	574	421	46%	35%	2%	37%
PU Calumet	195	169	34%	30%	4%	34%
PU North Central	316	255	24%	20%	2%	22%
IP Fort Wayne	340	289	30%	26%	1%	27%
PU Sub-total	1,425	1,134	35%	29%	2%	31%
BALL STATE UNIVERSITY	93	76	28%	23%	5%	28%
INDIANA STATE UNIVERSITY	92	76	47%	41%	1%	42%
UNIV OF SOUTHERN INDIANA	77	61	34%	27%	4%	31%
VINCENNES UNIVERSITY	4,481	3,419	32%	25%	1%	26%
IVY TECH STATE COLLEGE						
ITSC 1-Northwest	341	302	0	13%	1%	14%
ITSC 2-North central	294	259	0	23%	0%	23%
ITSC 3-Northeast	162	147	0	9%	0%	9%
ITSC 4-Lafayette	167	142	0	17%	1%	19%
ITSC 5-Kokomo	184	160	0	21%	1%	22%
ITSC 6-East Central	384	332	0	13%	1%	13%
ITSC 7-Wabash Valley	339	313	0	18%	1%	19%
ITSC 8-Central Indiana	621	553	0	13%	1%	14%
ITSC 9-Whitewater	198	171	0	17%	1%	18%
ITSC 10-Col/Blmgtn	281	238	0	13%	2%	15%
ITSC 11- Southeast	91	83	0	31%	1%	32%
ITSC 12-Southwest	387	321	0	18%	1%	19%
ITSC 13-South Central	185	159	0	20%	1%	21%
ITSC Sub-total	3,634	3,180	0	16%	1%	17%
PUBLIC CAMPUS TOTAL	10,442	8,439	27%	22%	1%	23%

[Note: All figures contained in this report are for degree-seeking students only. Figures on non-degree-seeking students are not included.]

